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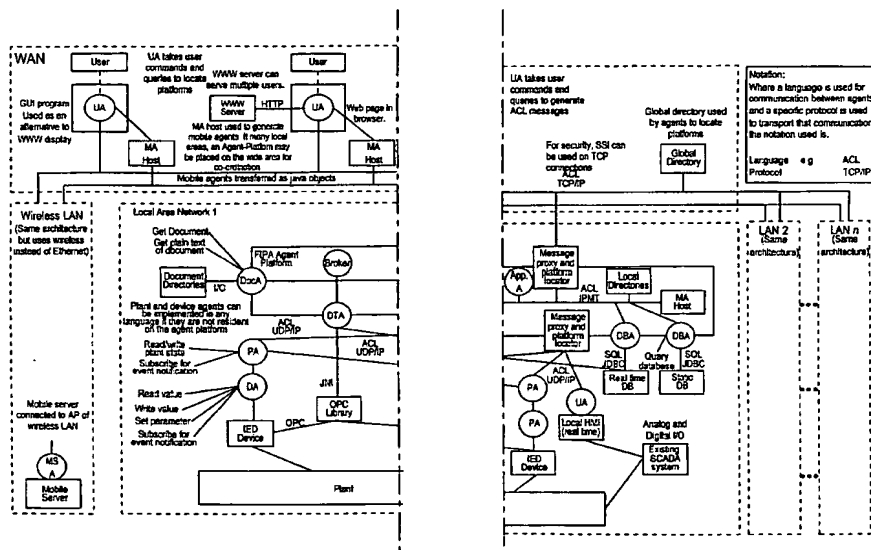
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(54) Title: AUTOMATION PLATFORM FOR INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, CONDITION MONITORING AND REAL-
TIME CONTROL OF DISTRIBUTED INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a generic system architecture for use in forming automation systems comprising a plurality of software agents selectively adaptable to implement specific functions used for the integration of information management, condition monitoring and real-time control in an automation system for a distributed industrial system formed thereby. The invention also provides automation systems comprising a plurality of software agents adapted to implement specific functions used for information management, condition monitoring and real-time control in a coordinated manner.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference DIH/P408129WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION		see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/GB 03/03918	International filing date (day/month/year) 09/09/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 09/09/2002	
Applicant THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL			

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 03 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

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☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

01

☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 03/03918

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G05B19/418

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G05B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2002/062334 A1 (CHEN QIMING ET AL) 23 May 2002 (2002-05-23)	1-15
Y	the whole document	16
X	US 6 434 446 B1 (SCHOOP RONALD ET AL) 13 August 2002 (2002-08-13)	17
Y	the whole document	16

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Z document member of the same patent family

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US 2002062334 A1 23-05-2002 NONE

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